Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Friday 18 Feb 2022 until 23:59 on Saturday 19 Feb 2022

Forecast Issued on Thursday 17 Feb 2022 at 16:37

Confidence: High for very unsettled often windy and wintry conditions, with some milder interludes, but lower with regard to details, even on Friday due to uncertainties in the exact track and depth of Storm Eunice.

Headline for Friday 18 Feb 2022: Persistent morning snow, afternoon snow showers. Bitterly cold and very windy

Mountain weather hazards on Friday 18 Feb 2022

Blizzards
High Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
High Likelihood

Storm force winds
Low Likelihood

Gales
High Likelihood

Severe chill effect
High Likelihood

Poor visibility
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
Low Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Partly cloudy (night)	Cloudy	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow showers	Heavy snow showers (night)	Heavy snow
Precipitation probability							
<05%	40%	>95%	60%	80%	30%	30%	60%

Forecast for Friday 18 Feb 2022

Weather: Dry start with clear spells but increasing cloud brings persistent and occasionally heavy snow by dawn, with blizzards expected, especially over higher slopes. Then a wintry morning with occasionally heavy snow and blizzard conditions at all but the lowest levels, although the snow may well turn more showery and, below about 500m, to rain for a time around the middle of the morning. The more persistent snow is then expected to clear east soon after midday to leave sunny spells and occasional heavy snow showers, these may merge to give a longer spell of snow for a time in the evening. Lying snow will continue to drift and blow in the strong winds.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Little chance through much of the morning becoming around 40% in afternoon.

Low cloud and visibility: Periods or persistent cloud above 300-450m developing by dawn, perhaps becoming more occasional above 600m for a time in the morning, then becoming occasional or periods above 450-600m by early afternoon. Otherwise visibility good falling to less than a kilometre in heavy snow and snow showers and near zero in blizzards and blowing or drifting snow.

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Forecast for Friday 18 Feb 2022

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	21/26 SW	23/31 SE	47/59 SE	38/50 S	44/60 NW	52/70 NW	41/56 W	43/58 W	38/53 W
600	14/20 SW	22/31 SE	34/48 SE	30/44 S	35/52 NW	40/59 NW	33/49 W	34/50 W	29/44 W
300	5/17 SW	9/23 SE	14/37 SE	12/33 S	20/45 NW	21/50 NW	16/39 W	16/40 W	16/37 W
Valley	4/14 SW	9/21 SE	16/38 SE	14/33 S	23/47 NW	21/47 NW	19/40 W	18/39 W	19/37 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-2/-10	-2/-10	-2/-12	-1/-10	-3/-13	-4/-16	-4/-15	-4/-15	-4/-14
600	-0/-6	-0/-7	-0/-9	0/-7	-1/-10	-2/-11	-2/-11	-2/-11	-2/-10
300	2/-0	2/-2	1/-5	2/-2	0/-6	1/-5	0/-6	0/-6	0/-6
Valley	4/2	4/1	3/-2	4/0	2/-4	3/-2	3/-3	3/-3	3/-3
Freezing Level*	500m	500m	500m	700m	400m	300m	300m	300m	300m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Gusts around 80mph possible over ridges and summits, potentially higher depending on track of Storm Eunice

Forecast for Saturday 19 Feb 2022

Weather: A few snow showers and some sunny spells, however southern fells look cloudier with a risk of some more persistent snow for a time in the afternoon. Drier for a time towards evening then outbreaks of snow spreading east in evening, turning to rain at lower levels towards midnight.

Maximum wind: Westerly 30-40mph, gusts around 60mph over ridges and summits, backing southwesterly through the morning and easing 15-20mph by midday, increasing 25mph towards midnight.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Around 75%, but chances falling to 25% in the south for a time in the afternoon. Chances fall considerably in the evening.

Low cloud and visibility: Occasional cloud above 600m becoming, across southern fells in the early afternoon and more generally through the evening, periods or persistent above 450-600m. Otherwise visibility good or very good falling to around a kilometre in any snow or snow showers, and near zero in blowing or drifting snow over higher fells through the first half of the morning and perhaps in the evening.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Around zero Celsius rising to plus 5 or 6 Celsius
At 800m: minus 3 Celsius, rising to plus 1 Celsius in evening
Freezing level: Around 450m through much of the day but rising 900m in evening.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Date: Thursday 17 February 2022. Location: Helvellyn Summit at 1210. Full report. The following report comes with a major health warning in that, at the time of writing, Cumbria is under a Met Office Yellow weather warning for snow from 3am Friday until 6pm on Friday and also one for wind from 7am on Friday again until 6pm on Friday. Therefore walkers intending to be out on Friday should primarily ask whether they really want, and have the experience, to be out in such unpleasant conditions and secondly should expect, and be prepared to encounter, very different conditions underfoot to those experienced and described below. The following will, though, provide an indication as to what any fresh snow will settle onto. Wednesday's milder temperatures and accompanying rain has thawed most of the recent snow together with some of the older snow patches. With the return of sub zero temperatures (it was minus 2 degrees on the summit at midday), the snow that survived Wednesday's thaw was rock hard and icy. Such snow patches can be found mainly above 850m in sheltered spots and hollows and on predominantly east facing aspects (both north and south of due east). Above 650m there was an insignificant skittering (light dusting) of fresh snow/hail/spindrift with the most accumulations (which was not much!) in the lee of the westerly winds that deposited it. There are cornices over steep, predominantly east facing slopes. Although they are extremely small, please keep well clear of such edges and advise those with less experience to do likewise as cornices are likely to be a more significant feature once Storm Eunice has passed through. As mentioned, Storm Eunice is not going to make Friday an enjoyable day to be out on the fells. However, for those venturing out onto the high fells after it has passed, full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots (not trainers) and equipment - including torch, map & compass and the ability to use them - are all essential. For those going above the snowline and attempting, or traversing, steep slopes or exposed routes – such as Striding and Swirral Edges – an ice axe will be essential and crampons must be carried in case hard snow/ice is encountered – as it was today on both Striding and especially Swirral's exit. Fresh, deep snow obscuring landmarks (such as footpaths and cairns) combined with strong winds, low cloud and falling snow/spindrift are likely to create potential or actual whiteout conditions necessitating excellent navigational skills. Goggles are also strongly recommended to reduce the sting of windblown hail/spindrift.Temperature: minus 1.9C, Maximum wind speed 42.4 mph, Wind chill: minus 12.9 C, Average wind speed: 31.9 mph

Issued at: 1637 on Thu 17 Feb 2022

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